

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5350

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USEC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS MADRID 2942

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: AREILZA CONCLUDES HIS VISITS TO ROME AND TO THE VATICAN

1. FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA RETURNED TO MADRID YESTERDAY, 13 APRIL, ENDING HIS OFFICIAL VISITS TO ROME AND TO THE VATICAN. HIS LAST DAY IN ROME WAS REPORTEDLY OCCUPIED IN EXTENSIVE INTERVIEWS WITH VATICAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE VATICAN SECRETARY OF STATE. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS MINISTER AREILZA SAID THE MEETINGS RESULTED IN A MUTUAL RECOGNITION THAT THERE EXISTS A "UNANIMITY OF INTENTION" BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE HOLY SEE.

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2. IN A PRESS CONVERENCE THE MINISTER EXPLAINED THAT

THE OBJECTIVES OF HIS VISIT TO THE VATICAN WERE
TWOFOOLD: TO MAKE PUBLIC THE DESIRE OF THE SPANISH
GOVERNMENT FOR A FULL NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN
SPAIN AND THE HOLY SEE AND TO EXPLORE THE MEANS BY WHICH
AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO STATES COULD BE PUT
INTO EFFECT. HE COULD NOT SAY WHETHER THIS WOULD
LEAD TO A NEW CONCORDANT OR WHETHER THE TWO STATES
WOULD AGREE TO A NON- CONCORDAT RELATIONSHIP, ADDING,
HOWEVER, THAT THE CLIMATE OF TODAY IS NOT THAT OF 1953:
"THE TEXTS (OF THE CONCORDAT OF 1953) WHICH WERE
CONCEIVED IN RELATION TO A PARTICULAR SOCIETY DO NOT
CORRESPOND TO THE SOCIAL REALITY OF TODAY'S SPAIN."
HE FELT THE PRESENT ATMOSPHERE WAS POSITIVE FOR
NEGOTIATION FOR BOTH SIDES HAD ADMITTED THAT "THERE
WERE THINGS TO BE IMPROVED, TO BE RECTIFIED, TO BE
RESOLVED AND PERHAPS TO BE REPLACED."

3. THE JUDGMENT OF THE SPANISH PRESS IS THAT AREILZA'S
VISITS TO ROME AND TO THE VATICAN HAVE PROVEN BENEFICIAL
IN LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS.
"ARRIBA" (NATIONAL MOVEMENT) SAID THAT NO INCIDENTS,
NOT EVEN A MINOR ONE, OCCURRED TO UPSET THE
"POSITIVE BALANCE" THE VISIT ACHIEVED " FOR THE FUTURE
OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE EC." ITALY
SUPOITS THE INTEGRATION OF SPAIN INTO THE EC ONCE
SPAIN HAS FULFILLED THE POLITICAL CONDITIONS THE
EC MEMBER STATES HAVE CALLED FOR. "ABC"
(MONARCHIST) HEADLINED ITS STORY WITH AREILZA'S COMMENT
THE "ITALY HAS NOT BEEN THE EXCEPTION" IN HIS ROUND OF
VISITS TO THE EC CAPITALS. "YA" (CATHOLIC INDEPENDENT)
REPORTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE COMMERCIAL ACCORD OF 1970 BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE EC
WILL BE REOPENED 28 APRIL AND THEIR SUCCESS WILL NOT
DEPEND ON POLITICAL PROGRESS WITH SPAIN.

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